

Family dog was shot and killed by deputies who went to wrong home for domestic violence call

By **Veronica Rocha**

JUNE 8, 2016, 2:46 PM

Buddy didn't even have a chance to bark before a deputy in Hesperia drew a handgun and shot the dog, killing him.

The deputies then realized they had gone to the wrong home in response to a domestic disturbance call.

But the damage was done, and it was too late.

Debra Blackmore's beloved family dog was dead.

"Buddy didn't have a chance to bark," she wrote on Facebook. "They shot him with their 45... The Sargent in charge said they went to the wrong house and sorry."



Debra Blackmore
on Monday





This is my dog buddy. The Hesperia police of San Bernardino County were called out for a domestic violence came to my house. Which was the wrong house. My son and brother in law were here and five dogs. They came in to the driveway and buddy when out to see who was coming in. Tony and buddy was sitting on the patio. Dwayne was in the kitchen. Buddy didn't have a chance to bark. They shot him with their 45. Didn't let any on buddy for 10 min. Animal control said he needed to go to the vet. But it would cost too much if she took him. So family dog lay bleeding to death while they removed the officer who shot him. The Sergeant in charge said they went to the wrong house and sorry. PLEASE repost. Let people know how wrong this was .

7

1.6K

According to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, a citizen reported a domestic disturbance at his next-door neighbor's home about 12:34 p.m. Monday.

Deputies went to the 7300 block of Redwood Avenue, approached the home and "rattled the fence to alert any animals on the property," the sheriff's department said.

It appeared that there were no animals, so deputies entered the gate.

That's when two small dogs ran into the yard, then Buddy followed them.

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Sheriff's officials said Buddy, a larger Husky-Labrador mix, "was immediately aggressive toward the deputies." They thought Buddy was going to attack, so one of the deputies shot him, the sheriff's department said.

When a man then came out of the house and talked to the deputies, they realized they had gone to the wrong home. According to the sheriff's department, the man declined to allow animal control to transport the dog for medical aid.

"The department and the officers involved in this unfortunate situation all recognize the emotional impact the loss of a family pet has on this family and we extend our deepest sympathies," the sheriff's department said in a statement. "The officers involved in this incident feel terrible about what occurred but felt they had no other reasonable option at the time."

Animal control officers determined that Buddy needed to see a veterinarian, but Blackmore said her family couldn't afford it.

So Buddy bled to death, she said.

Capt. Greg Wielenga of the Hesperia sheriff's station has offered to help Blackmore and her family with "whatever steps."

But at this point, Blackmore said, she just wants people to "know how wrong this was."

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By [Rene Ray De La Cruz](#)[Print Page](#)

June 08, 2016 6:09PM

Dog owner wants justice for Buddy

HESPERIA — Debbie Blackmore told the Hesperia City Council that she wants justice for her dog, Buddy, after a [San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputy fatally shot him after responding to the wrong address Monday](#).

Family and friends of Blackmore shared their thoughts during the sparsely attended Hesperia City Council meeting Tuesday where Mayor Bill Holland addressed the non-agendized issue.

Holland said as a dog owner, he was upset by the report of the shooting and that the Sheriff's Department is conducting an investigation of the matter. He said it was way too early for people to rush to judgement before knowing all the facts.

During the meeting, Holland invited Hesperia Sheriff's Station Capt. Gregg Wielenga and the public to weigh in on the incident that occurred Monday.

With her friend, Tina Glidden, standing next to her for support, Blackmore, who was holding a poster with several photos of her dog, told the Council that Buddy did not hear "any noise" before her other dogs came running toward the deputies on her breezeway.

"They shot Buddy right through the neck and he went back into the house while the cops detained (her son and brother-in-law), knowing they had the wrong place," Blackmore said. "They didn't let nobody look at Buddy while he laid there for 15 minutes."

Blackmore said Sheriff's deputies should have immediately rushed the "bloody and dying" Buddy to an emergency room instead of making him waiting for Blackmore to drive from Apple Valley to take him to a veterinarian.

"My grandkids could have been there when they shot Buddy," Blackmore said. "Buddy was a loving dog who was raised with four grandkids and four little chihuahuas. He thought he was a big chihuahua."

The Daily Press reported earlier that Buddy, an 11-year old German Shepherd/Labrador mix, was fatally shot by Hesperia Sheriff's Station deputies while they responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a home in the 7300 block of Redwood Avenue.

Wielenga told the Council deputies had received a report from a resident about a domestic disturbance to a home where a "female" was yelling for help. He added that the caller did not provide the address of the incident, only that "it was left of his house."

Wielenga said based on that information, deputies approached the home and rattled the fence to alert any animals on the property. No animals appeared to be present and deputies entered the gated area.

Shortly after entering, two small dogs ran out into the yard before Buddy ran out, according the Daily Press.

Blackmore said Buddy went out to see who was coming in as the deputies walked into the breezeway and the dog "was shot before he even had a chance to bark."

But Sheriff's officials said Buddy was "immediately aggressive" when deputies arrived, with Wielenga telling the Council deputies used lethal force to protect themselves.

"It's a very tragic event. The house was not the correct house, it was on the other side of the reporting party's house," Wielenga said. "I understand the sorrow that the family feels and I can empathize as a dog owner myself. It's not a good thing for our department, definitely not a good thing for the dog owners — it's a horrible tragedy."

After Holland asked Wielenga about a belt audio recording, Wielenga said that the recording picked up the sound of deputies rattling the fence, the dog barking, growling aggressively and coming at the deputies before a deputy, who trains his own dogs, fired.

"After the dog was addressed, the deputies thought they were still dealing with a domestic disturbance until they made contact with the subjects in the house," Wielenga said. "They were then made aware that they were at the wrong address."

Blackmore and several of her friends and family told the Council they support the Sheriff's Department, but think they need to change the way they handle situations with dogs.

"I need justice for my dog for dying for nothing," said Blackmore, before showing Buddy's photos to the audience and returning to her seat.

Glidden told the Council she will continue to support the Sheriff's Department, but called the situation a "horrible, life-taking mistake" that was done by deputies who showed a "lack of compassion and respect" for an innocent family.

"Animal control told them that it was going to be real expensive to take the dog to the vet, but they did let them know they had a veteran's special at the animal



Debbie Blackmore speaks at the Hesperia City Council meeting Tuesday about her dog Buddy, an 11-year-old dog who was shot by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies responding to a reported domestic disturbance at a nearby home on Monday. Jose Huerta, Daily Press

shelter right now for adoptable pets,” Glidden said. “That is cold and heartless. This could have been handled a lot better.”

The Daily Press reported authorities said deputies asked the person at the home if he wanted to transport Buddy to receive medical aid and the man reportedly declined. Deputies contacted animal control for assistance but the responsible party declined to have them transport the dog, a statement reiterated by Hesperia City spokeswoman Rachel Molina.

“It’s my understanding the deputies made several offers to take the dog to the veterinarian, but according to the police report, the family declined,” Molina said. She did not know the reasoning behind the refusal.

Molina said the Animal Control officer also offered to take Buddy to the veterinarian and later offered to dispose of the dog after he was deceased. She said the fee for doing so would have been \$10, but said the fees were not discussed when the incident occurred.

Blackmore told the paper that Animal Control said “would cost too much money” to take Buddy to the veterinarian. She said she planned on filing a complaint against the Sheriff’s Department because of the incident.

“I’ve known this dog for eight-and-a-half years and never had a problem with him,” Glidden said. “I don’t know what the Council can do about this, but we’d like to have some sort of justice for Buddy.”

Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLaCruz@VVDailyPress.com or on Twitter @DP_ReneDeLaCruz.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160608/NEWS/160609747>

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San Bernardino Co. police respond to wrong house, shoot dog

Steph Solis, USA TODAY 2:03 a.m. EDT June 9, 2016



(Photo: Scott Olson/Getty Images)

A deputy in southern California shot a dog Monday while responding to a domestic disturbance call, only to realize that he and his colleague were at the wrong house.

Two deputies arrived at a Hesperia residence around noon Monday after a neighbor called 911 to report the incident, according to a statement from the [San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department](#). They rattled the fence to alert any animals at the house. Two small dogs ran out into the yard, followed by a larger one that police said was "immediately aggressive."



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[\(http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/06/06/276-rescued-dogs/85531952/\)](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/06/06/276-rescued-dogs/85531952/)

One officer fired a round at the dog. Then someone came out of the house and spoke with the deputies. That's when they realized they had the location wrong.

"The department and the officers involved in this unfortunate situation all recognize the emotional impact the loss of a family pet has on this family and we extend our deepest sympathies," the Sheriff's Department said in a statement. "The officers involved in this incident feel terrible about what occurred but felt they had no other reasonable option at the time."

The dog was an 11-year-old husky mix named Buddy, ABC News reported.



USA TODAY

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The deputies asked the person if he wanted to take the dog to the vet, but the man said no, according to the statement. He also declined to have Animal Control transport the dog, even though deputies contacted the agency.

Buddy died that day.

Deputies ended up going to the incident location and made an arrest, but the Hesperia station will continue to communicate with the family who lost Buddy, according to the statement.

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Robert Lovinggood



Angela Valles



Photo Credits: Before Both images James Quigg

Anticipation of the November face-off between Robert Lovinggood and Angela Valles officially started Wednesday, even though Valles, a former Victorville City Councilwoman, would likely argue it had been growing since February, planted when she announced her candidacy.

Another argument could be made that the writing was on the wall after the first round of primary election results was released at 8 p.m. Tuesday, showing Valles comfortably in second and Lovinggood with a sizable advantage, but not with the 50-percent-plus-1 majority that would have avoided this scenario. And challengers would cut into that lead further as the night went on.

The general election run-off is now set for San Bernardino County 1st District supervisor: Lovinggood, who finished with 38.09 percent, versus Valles, who garnered 25.3 percent of the vote. They're two politically established candidates who have sparred in the past over Valles' allegations that Lovinggood uses his seat to advance his business interests, and the incumbent defeated Valles' husband Rick Roelle in a run-off four years ago.

"Clearly, we now have a very competitive race going into the November general election," said David Dupree, a political professor at Victor Valley College.

It would appear that Lovinggood holds the early edge, Dupree said, buoyed by name recognition, community outreach, campaign organization and fundraising ability.

"Those advantages will certainly grow in importance in the general election," he said, "where the voter pool is filled with less informed and less active voters than in the primary."

On Tuesday night, Lovinggood pointed to his top vote-getter status as tantamount to a "vote of confidence" from the electorate. But Dupree, who said he sensed the anti-Lovinggood sentiment was not at a groundswell, added it was worth exploring whether the formal "NO to Lovinggood" campaign had been particularly effective.

About the same time that Lovinggood was sounding optimistic late Tuesday, Valles and Roelle, a former Apple Valley mayor who finished third, were equally encouraged as they looked forward to November.

After all, they said, their overt strategy by numbers had worked to keep Lovinggood under the majority vote threshold and their combined number of votes

topped his. If Roelle's supporters were to shift to Valles, and she could siphon votes from those who backed third- and fourth-place finishers Hesperia Mayor Pro Tem Paul Russ and Hesperia Mayor Bill Holland, then it "really tightens up that race," Roelle said.

Yet Dupree warned that Tuesday's race shaped up as a "tri-city contest, with votes being split out amongst the experienced officials from the three area city councils."

"The people that were voting for those other candidates were probably voting for them because they know them as elected officials in their city," said one long-time political consultant who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he may have clients who later become involved in the race.

It would mean that Valles may not necessarily receive uniform crossover support, even as Holland has already said he'll support her while Russ was not prepared to endorse anyone Tuesday. But therein also lies an opportunity rife with unanswered questions.

"Is Angela's campaign going to have enough resources — meaning, money — to get the communication out to people who voted for (Lovingood's other competitors)?" the consultant wondered.

It would require Valles to build name recognition and reach that portion of the electorate at least three times before November, he said, with the message: "I'm endorsed by those you voted for."

Lovingood would win by default if Valles' campaign is weak, he said.

But Lovingood also has inherent challenges, according to the consultant, beginning with his showing Tuesday in the five-candidate contest.

"Any incumbent who's below 50 percent going into an election runoff is in trouble to begin with. That means a majority voted clearly 'not you,'" he said. "Usually the (incumbent) has the highest name ID and the least room to move the needle in terms of what people think of them."

And the candidacy of Valles, a Hispanic, in particular could pose a problem to Lovingood given the expected climate of the general election, according to the consultant. He said it's anticipated women and Hispanics will be highly motivated to turn out: women to vote for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Hispanics to cast their ballots against Donald Trump.

Lovingood on Wednesday said "his record stands on its own," adding that having garnered more votes than any other candidate should be seen as "substantial." He pointed to endorsements by Hesperia City Councilman Eric Schmidt and Victorville City Council members — the latter, he suggested, reflected his and Valles' reputations.

"This is a really muddled race, because on paper," the consultant said, "Lovingood is in real trouble ... but Angela is sort of one of the only candidates who doesn't have any friends with money."

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DP_Shea](https://twitter.com/DP_Shea)

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160608/NEWS/160609748>

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Voter turnout appears to be up in San Bernardino County

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

sandra.emerson@langnews.com

@TheFactsTwitter on Twitter

SAN BERNARDINO >> It appears election officials were correct to anticipate a surge of voters in Tuesday's primary — at least according to final, unofficial results.

More than 30 percent of registered voters in San Bernardino County cast their ballots on and leading up to Tuesday, according to the county registrar of Voters. The turnout for Tuesday's primary exceeded turnout in the 2012 presidential primary.

Turnout Tuesday was up among Republican and Democratic voters, but down among those not affiliated with a party — worth noting since “no party preference” registration has been rising.

The registrar's Elections Office does not comment on turnout, spokeswoman Melissa Eikman said, but it works to make voting convenient.

“We see our role in this is providing as much convenience as we can for the voters,” Eikman said.

Statewide voter turnout also was up Tuesday. More than 33 percent of registered voters participated in the primary, up from 31 percent in 2012.

In April, Secretary of State Alex Padilla reached out to Gov. Jerry Brown's office in anticipation of a surge in voter turnout based on increased online voter registration and high turnout in other states' primaries.

That month, Brown signed Assembly Bill 120 providing the secretary of state and county elections offices additional funding to cover the cost of conducting Tuesday's primary.

“All in all, the election went very well,” said Sam Mahood, spokesman for the secretary of state's office.

“Millions of Californians participated and cast a ballot. County elections officials will be busy processing and counting ballots in the coming days, and our office will be assessing any reports of issues on Election Day. We will be following up with county elections to address any outstanding issues.”

Through AB 120, county officials can request reimbursement for election costs incurred between April 26 and July 15, Mahood said.

“Funding is available for costs with conducting the June 7 primary and conducting initiative signature verification in a timely manner, which is ongoing,” he said.

Counties have not yet requested reimbursements, he said.

On Wednesday, ballot counters at the San Bernardino County Elections Office worked to process 54,000 ballots collected at polling places, 3,500 mail ballots that arrived at the office Wednesday, about 4,000 ballots from

early-voting locations and more than 10,000 damaged ballots.

There are more than 26,000 provisional ballots that need to be counted, which will happen next week, Eikman said.

The next update on vote counts is scheduled for 4 p.m. today.

Mail ballots postmarked by Election Day will be counted if they are received no later than three days after the election.

County elections offices must report their final results to the secretary of state for presidential delegates by July 5 and all other offices by July 8, according to the secretary of state's office. The state office will compile the results of the election of presidential delegates by July 9 and will certify the results of all other offices by July 15.

Eikman said overall election day went well, but some voters had questions about how to vote for presidential candidates. Nonpartisan voters were allowed to vote for Democratic, Libertarian and the American Independent candidates, but not Republican candidates.

"So we had a lot of those questions throughout the day," she said. "We did a lot to educate voters on how that process works, but they still had those questions."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160608/voter-turnout-appears-to-be-up-in-san-bernardino-county>

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Did San Bernardino's Terror Attack Change The Politics Of Those Involved?



The sign for the fenced-in Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California, where 14 people were killed and 22 were injured in a terrorist attack on Dec. 2, 2015. (Ethan Lindsey/Here & Now)

After the Dec. 2, 2015, terror attacks in San Bernardino left 14 dead and 22 injured, the nation began a debate on terrorism, Muslim immigration, and gun control. But what about those involved in the attack? Did they change their minds about issues like those?

This is part two of our coverage of the aftermath of the shooting six months later. You can listen to part one [here](#).

Photos Of Julie Paez And Alex Vasquez





Alex Vasquez, Inland Empire reporter for KNBC, was the first journalist on the scene at the terror attack in the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California. Here he is at a location across the street where emergency responders set up a triage center after the attack. (Ethan Lindsey/Here & Now)

In San Bernardino, a Plea for Tolerance — Not Trump's Terror Politics

As California votes in Tuesday's presidential primary, San Bernardino's residents resist Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric in the name of their city's terror attacks.

BY MOLLY O'TOOLE

JUNE 7, 2016

MOLLY.OTOOLE

@MOLLYMOTOOLE

The street where a shootout last December ended the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9/11 is very familiar to Michael Ramos, San Bernardino County's first Hispanic district attorney: It's the same one where he grew up, in a house built by his grandfather, an immigrant from Mexico.

That's why Ramos, a Republican who faces his own long-shot **bid** for state attorney general in liberal-rich California, is pushing back against the GOP's presumptive nominee, Donald Trump, for politicizing his hometown's tragedy. A married couple inspired by Islamic extremists went on a shooting spree in the chaparral and strip-mall strewn Southern California community, leaving 14 people dead.

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“I won’t ever use the victims for political reasons,” Ramos said Saturday, even as he acknowledged the San Bernardino attacks have strengthened his name recognition statewide.

“Before, when people would ask where I was from, I would say between LA and Palm Springs,” he said. “Now I don’t have to say a word ... everybody in the world knows where San Bernardino is. I wouldn’t wish that on any county in America.”

The Dec. 2 attack on a holiday-themed lunch during a training day for county health workers thrust San Bernardino, the largest county in the United States but also one of its poorest, into the harsh spotlight of the 2016 presidential election.

Almost immediately after the attacks, the now-presumptive GOP nominee cited them in demanding “a total and complete **shutdown** of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.” That followed his earlier suggestions for authorities to surveil **mosques**, and previewed Trump’s later calls to monitor Muslim-American communities.

“We have Muslims — they’re wonderful,” Trump said in New Hampshire, a few weeks after the San Bernardino attacks. “But there’s something going on there ... these people in California, people knew he had bombs all over the floor, people knew it. Why didn’t they turn him in?”

Ramos, his county’s chief prosecutor, has made public vigilance and victims rights a key part of his campaign. But as California votes in Tuesday’s presidential primary — the largest and one of the last in the U.S. campaign — Ramos underscored the state’s diversity as a strength, not a security vulnerability. In **San Bernardino County** alone, 51.7 percent of the population is Hispanic or Latino, and 21.3 percent is foreign born.

For Trump, on the other hand, name recognition has never been an issue. Cheering crowds and jeering protesters have met his campaign stops throughout California before Tuesday’s vote.

In **Redding** last week, Trump ramped up criticism of a Mexican-American **federal judge** presiding over a class-action suit against his Trump University real-estate program in Southern California. He claims the judge has a conflict of interest, given Trump’s vows to build a wall between Mexico and the United States. At the same event, Trump pointed to a black man in the crowd, saying, “Look at my African-American!”

He's since suggested Muslim-American judges might also be too biased to serve, and even rejected his campaign's directive to surrogates to tone it down. "The people asking the questions —those are the racists," **Trump said**. "I would go at 'em."

Though Trump has campaigned aggressively in California with an eye to the general election in November — and the state's wealth — his disparaging remarks against broad swaths of the state's electorate underscore how the **voter registration** math overwhelmingly favors his presumptive Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. As of May 23, 44.8 percent of registered California voters were Democrat, compared with 27.3 percent Republican.

"Before, when people would ask where I was from, I would say between LA and Palm Springs," he said. "Now I don't have to say a word ... everybody in the world knows where San Bernardino is. I wouldn't wish that on any county in America."

Minority voters lean heavily Democrat, and on Monday night, Clinton **clinched** the 1,383 delegates needed to win the party's nomination. Still, her Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who remains neck-and-neck in California **polls** with the former secretary of state, has vowed to stay in the race past Tuesday's primary until the party's convention in July.

Clinton and Sanders recently have made campaign stops in San Bernardino. Sanders didn't mention the attack, but focused his criticism on Trump and his disparaging comments against minority groups.

"Donald Trump will not become president of the United States," Sanders **said** in San Bernardino on May 24 to a crowd of about 5,000. "The American people are not going to support a candidate who insults Latinos ... who insults Muslims, who insults women."

Last Friday, Clinton used the political backdrop of the Islamic State-**inspired** attacks to speak to the people of San Bernardino. She directly accused Trump of endangering the country with his inexperience and incoherence on national security.

"You know, so well here, that the most important responsibility of any president is to be the commander in chief, to keep America safe, and to lead the world in a way that will make us safer," Clinton **said** at California State University San Bernardino, in the gymnasium referred to as "The Coyote Den."

Clinton and national security experts in both parties argue that divisive Islamophobic rhetoric makes the U.S. less safe. Doing so, they say, contributes to the narrative pushed by the Islamic State and other militant Islamic groups that America is at war with Islam and persecutes fellow Muslims. For example, al-Shabab, al-Qaeda's Somali affiliate, in January used a clip of Trump repeating his call for the United States to ban Muslims in a propaganda recruitment [video](#).

San Bernardino's [victims](#) reflect California's diversity.

They include Bennetta Betbadal, a mother of three who fled religious persecution as a Christian in Iran. Tin Nguyen had left Vietnam at age 8 with her mother. Juan Espinoza, the youngest of 13 siblings, was raised in Sonora, Mexico. And Isaac Amanios escaped violence and repression in Eritrea to immigrate to California.

Amanios reportedly shared a cubicle with San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook, a U.S. citizen and a county inspector. Farook and his Pakistani wife, Tashfeen Malik, opened fire against his co-workers at the Inland Regional Center last December.

They also left a [pipe bomb](#) that didn't detonate, though Dr. Michael Neeki, one of the first responders, didn't know it at the time.

On Dec. 2, Neeki raced to the buildings downtown where he'd heard there was an active shooter. "When the call came through, it was utter disbelief something like that can happen here," he recalled in an interview Monday.

The threat of violence was not new to the [SWAT team](#) doctor, but not because of his training in emergency surgery or tactical response.

Neeki escaped Iran, where he was repeatedly imprisoned and tortured, in 1986, and in 1989, he came to the United States, where he attended college and medical school. He was first detained as a teenager by Iranian authorities who found a Michael Jackson cassette tape in his pocket. Later, to prevent him from fleeing the country, he was conscripted into the military for two years during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

"Don't forget about us. We're going to be in this for the long haul."

Now a U.S. citizen, Neeki calls himself a political independent. While he expresses support for some of Trump's economic policies, he says the real estate magnate's rhetoric reminds Neeki of the Iranian regime that he and his family fled. He also said American foreign policy is partially to blame for San Bernardino, and the rise of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State.

"Some people like to call it black swan, or a random event," he said. "But we had 14 people dead, dozens wounded — innocent people. Their families are now suffering from that lack of awareness."

"To me, it is a failure of our external policy leading to this," he continued. "Our policies are pissing off everybody in the world."

Beyond the politics, the physical, psychological, and even financial recovery has just begun for the people of San Bernardino.

Corwin Porter, assistant director for the county's department of public health, which oversees the division decimated by the attack, was in the room that day. "They saw things they should never have to see for a lifetime," he said in a Sunday interview.

Careful to stay away from presidential politics, he urged candidates and the public: "Don't forget about us. We're going to be in this for the long haul."

San Bernardino County, one of the hardest hit nationwide by the recession with its county seat, the City of San Bernardino, forced to file for **bankruptcy** in 2012, is struggling with the unexpected and immense cost of the unprecedented terrorist attack. The price tag is estimated to be well over **\$20 million** for emergency response fees, counseling services, and security renovations.

"We have no idea how we're going to cover the cost going forward," Porter said.

Six months after the attacks, he racks his brain with questions of what could've been done differently.

"Someone in your own group turning against your own people without any signs or symptoms, it's a scary thing," he said. "Should we have noticed something? Should we have done something different? Even to to this day, I don't know."

On Tuesday, Ramos was flying back to California from South Carolina, which suffered its own mass shooting at a [Charleston](#) church a year ago. As president-elect of the [National District Attorneys Association](#), Ramos said he's eager to share the lessons from when terrorism put his own community on the map.

"That's what Donald Trump needs to know," Ramos said. "I truly believe if we are going to be a society that is civilized — what made America great to begin with — we need it to be *inclusive*, not *exclusive*."

He added, "And I'm a Republican!"

Photo credit: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/Staff

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WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MR. TRUMP?

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

IRS's San Bernardino office going to appointment-only system to eliminate long lines

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Wednesday, June 8, 2016



Make an appointment. That's the message the Internal Revenue Service's San Bernardino office is sending to taxpayers.

To eliminate long lines outside the San Bernardino location, taxpayers will need to begin calling to schedule an appointment beginning Monday, June 13.

"The IRS is moving to an appointment service at this office as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate lines and reduce frustration for taxpayers and for IRS employees wanting to assist them," according

to an IRS press release.

The IRS is encouraging taxpayers to take care of business online at IRS.gov if possible, according to spokesman Raphael Tulino, but are still welcome to drop by the IRS's Taxpayer Assistance Center at 290 N. D St., in San Bernardino, for assistance.

Beginning Monday, June 13, people can call 844-545-5640 to schedule an appointment, Tulino said.

The San Bernardino location serves the Inland Empire, with the next closest IRS offices in Palm Springs and Santa Ana.

IRS data shows that most visitors at its Taxpayer Assistance Center are there to obtain tax transcripts, make payments, resolve notices they have received, obtain forms, or inquire about tax refunds — all of which could be handled online.

Other matters taxpayers can take care of at IRS.gov include:

- Checking the status of a tax refund and the estimated delivery date
- Obtain free tax software to file taxes online
- Order transcripts to have mailed
- Make payments
- Set up a payment installment plan, if eligible, for back taxes owed
- Track the status of tax return
- Obtain information and answers to questions about their taxes
- Download any and all IRS publications, tax forms, and instructions

For additional information on available services, see Publication 5136 - the IRS Services Guide, at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160608/irss-san-bernardino-office-going-to-appointment-only-system-to-eliminate-long-lines>

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50-year veteran San Bernardino reserve police officer dies from medical complications

By Doug Saunders, The Sun

Wednesday, June 8, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> Richard Dewberry, a San Bernardino reserve police officer who spent five decades in public service here, died Wednesday from complications of Leukemia.

He was 78.

Dewberry began his service in 1965 as a reserve police officer. He worked a variety of assignments including patrol, prisoner transport, traffic and investigations.

He was best known as a range master, firearms instructor and caretaker of the San Bernardino Police Range, until it closed to the public.

“He was an amazing man with a huge heart,” police Sgt. Vicki Cervantes said. “Richard was a man of integrity. He always put others before himself and gave all he had to his family, the community and the Police Department during his 50 years of service with our agency. He will be profoundly missed.”

In February, [Dewberry was celebrated at City Hall](#) when he received a 50-year pin from Mayor Carey Davis and Police Chief Jarrod Burguan for his service. Dewberry accumulated more than 38,000 volunteer

hours.

“Richard was a San Bernardino treasure,” Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said Wednesday. “He committed 50 years of his life to volunteer service with the city. We will always be indebted to him.”

In May, the police range was dedicated in his honor and is now known as the Dewberry Range.

Dewberry had a 32-year career with the 7-Up Bottling Company, where he worked in sales.

Dewberry died at his home surrounded by loved ones. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160608/50-year-veteran-san-bernardino-reserve-police-officer-dies-from-medical-complications>

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Bomb threat at San Bernardino City Hall deemed hoax

By Doug Saunders, The Sun

Wednesday, June 8, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> Employees were evacuated from City Hall for nearly three hours Wednesday morning as police investigated a bomb threat that was later determined to be a hoax.

Police gave the all clear shortly before 9 a.m., allowing city employees back into the building.

Officers at the scene said they searched the building floor-to-floor after the threat was phoned into 911 operators shortly after 6 a.m.

Employees waited in the City Hall parking lot for nearly three hours while officers searched the building.

“After officers searched each floor, they deemed the threat not credible and allowed employees back inside,” police spokeswoman Eileen Hards said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160608/bomb-threat-at-san-bernardino-city-hall-deemed-hoax>

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EDITORIAL: RivCo voting backs fiscal prudence

2016-06-08 16:09:56

Based on the preliminary results from Tuesday's primary election, Riverside County voters appear to have taken a stand for fiscal responsibility, a welcome development at a time when many governments throughout the region have started to tackle head-on the problems of overspending and overpromising.

Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey was overwhelmingly approved for a second term, receiving 64 percent of the vote in a six-way race.

Mr. Bailey's closest competitor was Councilman Paul Davis, who carried 16 percent of the vote. Mr. Davis first announced his intent to run for mayor in August, shortly after filing a claim seeking over \$10,000 in damages from the city.

Mr. Davis, arguing that Mayor Bailey, former city attorney Greg Priamos, former city manager Scott Barber and former councilman Steve Adams worked in concert to silence him by launching a costly investigation, ultimately received \$40,000 and an acknowledgment from the city that the investigation was regrettable.

While the investigations of Mr. Davis and Councilman Mike Soubirous certainly tainted Mayor Bailey's first term, there have been a series of changes to city management and operations that virtually all parties can agree have been positive for the city. This includes the selection of John Russo as city manager and Gary Geuss as city attorney, and reforms like the Sunshine Ordinance, which have enhanced transparency in government.

With the election over, we hope the city can commit itself to moving forward in the best interest of Riverside residents and encourage council members like Mr. Davis to use their position to call out potential abuses of power whenever they occur.

Also in Riverside, voters rejected Measure B, a proposed pay raise for city council members, by a 4-1 margin. They also rejected, 62-38, Measure A, a proposal to grant prosecutorial authority over misdemeanors to the City Attorney's Office. Both proposals, which combined would cost at least \$2.5 million, came at a bad time, as the city is now confronting projected budget deficits over the next several years.

At the county level, voters in the First Supervisorial District re-elected Supervisor Kevin Jeffries. Mr. Jeffries, a consistent advocate for the taxpayer on the board, rightly warranted a second term.

Meanwhile, it appears that two candidates in the Third Supervisorial District will go to a run-off in November. Incumbent Chuck Washington, a Gov. Jerry Brown appointee who has brought a sensible perspective to the board, appeared to be one of them. Hemet Councilwoman Shellie Milne was leading Randon Lane, mayor of Murrieta, for the second spot. Whoever wins, voters in the district are fortunate to have their pick of qualified candidates.

Finally, Hemet's Measure E, which calls for a 10-year, 1 percent sales tax increase to pay for police and fire services, remained short of the two-thirds approval required for passage. We hope enough voters were able to see through the hollow sloganeering of the Yes campaign and block an attempt by the city to skirt the need to be fiscally responsible.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

California unprepared for next recession

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Tuesday, June 7, 2016



Economic downturns are always painful, but a little fiscal prudence helps some weather the storms better than others. California is not among the fiscally responsible, however, a recent Moody's Investors Service report finds.

In an analysis of the four most populous states in the nation — California, Texas, New York and Florida — Moody's found that California was least prepared for the next recession, while Texas would likely fare the best.

"California trailed the [other] three due to its revenue volatility, weak financial flexibility and lower reserve levels," a Moody's news release about the report stated.

"Historically, California has shown vulnerability as the center of the highly volatile tech industry and is reliant on personal income taxes, while Florida was the epicenter of the most recent housing slump," Emily Raimes, a Moody's vice president and senior credit officer, said in a statement. Since 1990, California experienced the largest single-year revenue decline, 17.2 percent, while Florida lost 12 percent during the housing collapse. By contrast, Texas lost only 8.5 percent when oil prices dipped and New York fell just 6.5 percent during the Wall Street downturn.

While Texas has more than three times the reserves needed to cover a projected revenue shortfall in the event of a recession, California has less than 1 time the coverage. Moreover, Texas' ability to make midyear spending cuts without a broad legislative vote offers it much greater financial flexibility, a Dallas Business Journal column notes.

A study on the states' fiscal positions from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University came to a similar conclusion, ranking California the 44th weakest.

"California's fiscal performance is weak across several categories," the study concluded, and the state "is heavily reliant on debt" on a long-run basis.

Among the subcategories analyzed, California ranked 42nd in terms of debt, which includes unfunded pension liabilities, 46th in long-run solvency, a measure of whether the state has enough assets to shield it from economic shocks or long-term fiscal risks, and 47th in cash solvency, a measure of whether the state has enough cash to cover its short-term bills.

"It would be short-sighted in the extreme to now embark upon a host of new spending only to see massive cuts when the next recession hits," Gov. Jerry Brown warned lawmakers when he released his budget proposal in January. To further hammer the point home, he referenced Aesop's fable of the ant and the grasshopper during the unveiling of his May budget revision.

While other states are more representative of the industrious ants, California remains the lazy grasshopper unprepared for the hardships of winter. When winter inevitably comes, rather than taking the opportunity to get the state's fiscal house in order, expect lawmakers and special-interest groups to seek yet another taxpayer handout to keep the spending binge going.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160607/california-unprepared-for-next-recession>

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What to disclose when an abused child nearly dies

BY LAUREL ROSENHALL [/ABOUT/STAFF/LAUREL-ROSENHALL]

06.07.2016

How much information should be available to the public in cases of severe child abuse?

California lawmakers and the administration of Gov. Jerry Brown have been at odds over that question for the last two years. Legislators recently rejected a proposal to limit public access to reports on abuse so extreme that children nearly die.

The schism reflects a fight between advocates for children and foster youths, on the one hand, and, on the other, the government agencies and workers tasked with protecting them from harm. At stake is about \$5 million in federal funds and the outcome of a debate pitting privacy arguments against revelations of what social workers knew about a family situation before it grew almost deadly.

State law already requires the release of original caseworker reports when children die from abuse or neglect, sometimes exposing serious lapses in the government's care of vulnerable kids.

"We spend a lot of time talking about the value of transparency in government, and I think that applies to this scenario too," state Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) said of cases deemed "near fatalities."

"If shedding light on a particular practice, a particular worker, can create... a different internal procedure that can have a positive outcome for the next child, that should be our collective goal."

Mitchell chairs the Senate committee that turned down a proposal

(http://dof.ca.gov/budgeting/trailer_bill_language/health_and_human_services/documents/638ChildNearFatalities-ReportingandDisclosure.pdf) from Brown's Department of Social Services to require summaries of social worker reports – not the reports themselves – to be disclosed in near-fatal child abuse cases.

Over the last eight years, 855 children in California were abused so severely that their cases qualified as near fatalities, according to (<http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/ChildFatalityChart.pdf>) the Department of Social Services. The term is used when abuse victims end up in serious or critical condition. During the same period, 980 California children died from abuse.

In a high-profile Los Angeles case (<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-gabriel-fernandez-torture-case-20160407-story.html>), documents released after 8-year-old Gabriel Martinez died in 2013 with a cracked skull and broken ribs showed that local officials left him with his mother despite having investigated her for abuse six times. Records also showed an unresolved allegation of abuse that social workers failed to investigate in the time required by law.

By contrast, state law is silent on the release of information when children barely survive abuse. “We were proposing to create a process that would require disclosures,” said Michael Weston, a deputy director in the state Department of Social Services. “There are currently no laws that require reporting.”

The department pitched a similar plan to the Legislature last year, but lawmakers did not accept it. This year, officials came back arguing that California is at risk of losing nearly \$5 million in federal funding if it does not pass a law defining what information must be made public in near-fatal abuse cases.

Disclosing a summary of findings would protect the privacy of a child recovering from abuse and adults or siblings in the home who were not responsible for it, state officials said, while meeting federal reporting requirements. Their plan had support from the Service Employees International Union, which represents social workers, and the County Welfare Directors Association, which represents local agencies that oversee child protective services.

“We appreciate the Administration’s thoughtful balancing of the public’s right to know certain relevant information about these types of incidents with the need to protect privacy for the affected children who are still alive and trying to recover from serious injuries and trauma,” the groups wrote in a joint letter of support (http://www.cwda.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/nf_tbl_joint_cwda_seiu_senate.pdf) for the bill.

But Ed Howard, a lobbyist for the Children’s Advocacy Institute, protested that the administration’s approach “elevated the needs of government over the needs of kids.”

Foster youth groups objected, too, arguing that original documents are more informative, and releasing them after near-fatalities would force counties to improve in how they look out for kids.

Children’s advocates and newspaper publishers lobbied for a bill that would require disclosure of reports on near-fatalities the same way it’s done when youngsters die.

The administration’s latest proposal surfaced last month as part of Brown’s revised state budget blueprint -- a common way (<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/dan-walters/article2577816.html>) of passing laws that may be only tangentially related to the budget and one that avoids the lengthier vetting regular bills receive.

“They simply thrust it on everyone with this gun-to-the-head approach and attempted to get it jammed into the budget that way,” said Jim Ewert, lobbyist for the California Newspaper Publishers Association, which promotes open government and access to public records.

Lawmakers rejected

(http://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/SUB3/May192016Sub3Health_HumanServices.pdf) the proposal after the outcry from advocates. A new version is in the works, several people involved in the negotiations said, and could take shape in the budget Brown and lawmakers must complete this month or in later legislation.

Reactions

Want to comment on this story? Submit a Letter to the Editor here (<https://calmatters.org/contact/>).

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LIAM DILLON

L.A. supervisor urges governor to sign off on county's homelessness plan



Annie Moody adjusts belongings next to her tent on Towne Avenue at 6th Street in Los Angeles. (Gary Friedman / Los Angeles Times)

A Los Angeles County supervisor had a one-on-one meeting with Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) on Wednesday to advocate for levying a countywide income tax on millionaires to pay for homeless services.

Supervisor [Mark Ridley-Thomas](#), who represents a large part of south Los Angeles County, said in an interview that [rising homelessness in Los Angeles](#) is a crisis that requires greater local investment. Ridley-Thomas and other local lawmakers want to put forward a measure on November's ballot in Los Angeles that would raise income taxes on those earning more than \$1 million to fund homeless services, as part of a broad strategy to combat the problem.

A so-called [millionaire's tax](#), Ridley-Thomas said, polls far above the two-thirds threshold needed for passage and wouldn't conflict with a push to increase sales taxes to fund transportation improvements also targeted for the November ballot in Los Angeles.

"It is the most favored in the region," Ridley-Thomas said.

The problem is that local governments don't have the authority to raise income taxes on their own, so the state would have to sign off on the deal. Ridley-Thomas and 29 state lawmakers, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and other L.A.-area politicians are urging Brown and legislative leaders to allow the change.

County supervisors have until early August to finalize measures on the November ballot, so Ridley-Thomas is pushing for the change to be included in state budget negotiations ahead of next week's deadline for passage.

Brown has been cold to giving local governments increased taxing authority, [recently vetoing a bill](#) that would have allowed cities and counties to charge their own tobacco taxes.

"The governor continues to have deep concerns about this plan," Brown spokesman Evan Westrup said of the income tax proposal.

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-essential-politics-l-a-supervisor-meets-with-the-governor-1465427966-htmlstory.html>

'It was just chaos': Broken machines, incomplete voter rolls leave some wondering whether their ballots will count



Voters line up at 7 a.m. to cast their ballots at the Super Suds Laundromat in Long Beach. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

By **Matt Pearce**

JUNE 7, 2016, 7:49 PM

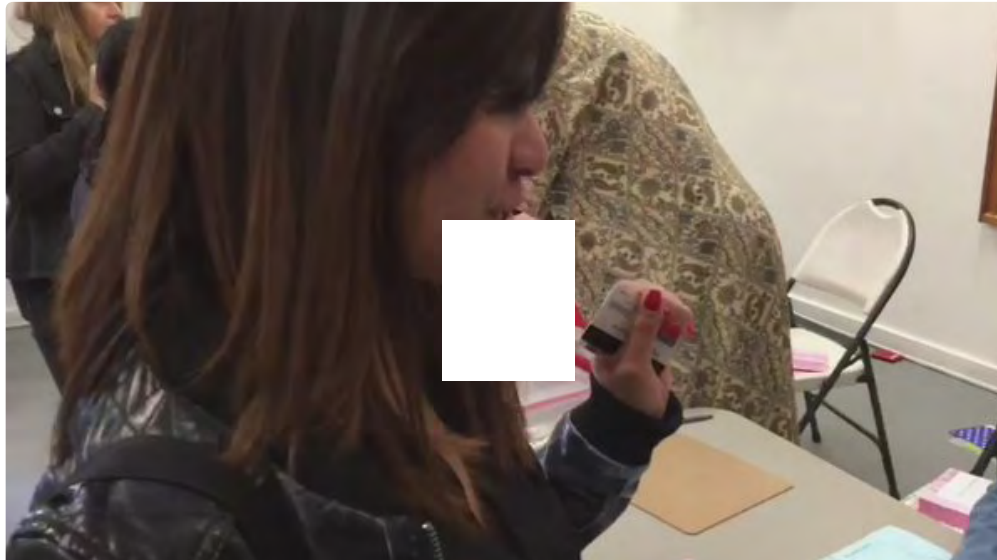
California voters faced a tough time at the polls Tuesday, with many voters saying they have encountered broken machines, polling sites that opened late and incomplete voter rolls, particularly in Los Angeles County.

The result? Instead of a quick in-and-out vote, many California voters were handed the dreaded pink provisional ballot — which takes longer to fill out, longer for election officials to verify and which tends to leave voters wondering whether their votes will be counted.

This year's presidential primary race has already been one of the most bitter in recent

memory. Before Tuesday's vote, [Bernie Sanders](#) supporters accused the media of depressing Democratic turnout by calling the nomination for [Hillary Clinton](#) before polls opened in California.

Those feelings haven't gotten any less raw Tuesday as hundreds of Californians complained of voting problems to the national nonpartisan voter hotline run by the Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under Law.



Laura Silverman

@LJSilverman1

Follow

What happened when my cousin [@brandollars](#) tried to vote: broken machine, 62 pages of voter roll missing [#PrimaryDay](#)

10:56 AM - 7 Jun 2016

993

663

It's difficult to get a sense for how widespread the problems are or how they compare to recent elections. But experts said the culprit for Tuesday's voting problems seems to be a confluence of factors — old voting machines, a competitive election that has drawn new voters, plus complex state voting laws that can be hard for poll volunteers and voters to follow.

“Presidential primary elections in California are the hardest elections of all. ... This election reminds me of 2008 in that regard,” said Kim Alexander, president of the nonpartisan California Voter Foundation. “Our voter registration deadline is 15 days before election day, and that gives all the counties, and especially L.A. County, very little time to get their polling place rosters updated with all the voters.”

When Sanders supporter Brandon Silverman, 29, showed up at his polling station in Echo Park at 8:15 a.m., he said poll workers immediately handed him a provisional ballot, explaining that their machine wasn't working yet. The full list of voters' names for the precincts also seemed to be missing.

Silverman, an assistant television editor, quickly called a Sanders voter hotline and L.A. County voting officials. About 45 minutes later, the problems seemed to be resolved and he was able to cast a regular ballot, he said. But the chaos shook his confidence in the fairness of the electoral process a little, especially after hearing other precincts and states struggle with voting problems this year.

RELATED: Clinton claims milestone as first female major-party nominee, wins California primary >>

"I tend to agree with most of the Bernie supporters who are disappointed in the media's handling of the superdelegate counts, but I tend to shy away from the people saying it's 'stolen' or 'rigged,'" Silverman said. "I'd like to not think the worst, but at a certain point you think, is it a coincidence?"

In Bell, Albert Grey showed up at his polling site Tuesday morning to find that the vote-counting machine seemed to be jammed, and there didn't seem to be a supervisor on site. So he left without voting.

"I still have my ballot, I'm going to go back, see if the machine is working, and if it is, I'm going to vote," Grey said.

On social media, many California voters reported showing up to their polling sites only to find that their names were not listed on the voting rolls, leaving them to cast a provisional ballot.

Sanders supporter Jonathan Daniel Brown accused Democrats of "purging votes" when he discovered he was not on the voting rolls at his polling station despite being registered.

The image shows a screenshot of a voter registration verification interface. On the left, there is a form with the following fields: 'Birthdate *' with the value '07/06/1989' and a note 'Required format: mm/dd/yyyy'; 'House Number *' with the value '1631' and a note 'House number of residence address.'; and 'Zip Code *' with the value '90027'. Below these fields is a note: 'For assistance, call (800) 815-2666.' On the right, there is a blue header with the text 'Registration Verification' in white. Below this, the text 'ing record.' is visible. Further down, there is a blue bar with the text 'n Status' in white. At the bottom, the text 'Active voter, please call (800) 815-2666 for assistance or you can re-reg' is partially visible.

r Polling Place

Polling Place & Sample Ballot Lookup

Election(s) matching your address.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - 06/07/2016

Polling Place

FIRE STATION #35 -  **Yes**
RECREATION ROOM
1601 HILLHURST AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027
POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8 P.M.



JonathanDanielBrown
@JonathanDBrown

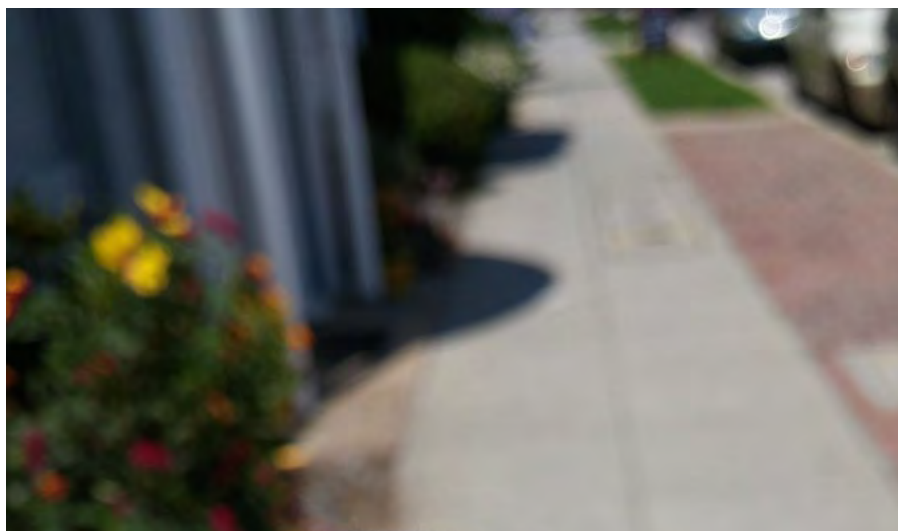
[Follow](#)

[#IVoted](#) [#CAPRIMARY](#) [#CaliforniaPrimary](#) The Democrats are purging votes. Showed up to my usual spot & I'm not on roll!

10:42 AM - 7 Jun 2016

251 175

Brown, an actor, refused to take a provisional ballot, and his complaints drew the attention of Los Angeles County Registrar-County Clerk Dean Logan, who intervened. Eventually, Brown said he was allowed to cast a regular ballot — though not before Brown said a poll worker called the police on him.



JonathanDanielBrown

@JonathanDBrown

Follow

It only took four hours and I had the cops called on me, but...

1:06 PM - 7 Jun 2016

219

343

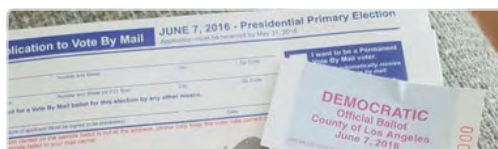
Los Angeles County's 4,700 polling locations have to handle rosters for 4.9-million voters. The process can be complicated as many of the voters on those rosters can register or switch their party preferences up to 15 days before the election.

In an interview with The Times, Logan said there were some instances where supplemental rosters of new voters didn't seem to make it to the polls on time, and so voters have gotten frustrated with having to take provisional ballots.

"There's no doubt there's an emotional element to this," Logan said, alluding to the passions around the presidential campaign. "It is very unusual in California that we have candidates for president who are here the day before an election."

Although some voters hesitate to take provisional ballots because they aren't counted immediately, about 85 to 90% of provisional ballots are typically found to be legitimate and are counted toward the final, official vote, Logan said.

"We look at every one of those ballots," Logan said. If a ballot is legitimate, he said, "Then that ballot does get counted."



Provisional voter receipt

You have been issued a Provisional Ballot for one of the following reasons:

- 1 Your name is not listed on the Official Roster of Voters.
- 2 Our records show that you requested a Vote By Mail ballot that you do not have with you to surrender to a pollworker.

Note: If you **DID NOT** vote a Vote By Mail ballot OR we did not receive it, your Provisional Ballot will be counted.

3 You are a first-time voter and did not provide proof of identification. Your ballot will be counted if the Registrar's office establishes your eligibility to vote.

If you were did not vote, your ballot will be counted.

Registration Status: Active
If you are an inactive voter, please call (800) 815-2666 for assistance.

Permanent Vote By Mail: No
If you are not a permanent Vote by Mail voter, you can sign up [here](#) to:

Party Preference: DEMOCRATIC
For information on **Crossover Voting** for the Presidential Primary, [click here](#).

You are a registered voter eligible to vote in the following election:

- 06/07/2016 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

If you are a Permanent Vote By Mail voter, [click here](#) to view the status of your ballot.

[Click here](#) to view your Polling Place and Sample Ballot.

For assistance, call (800) 815-2666.

[Reset](#)

sarah sprague
@sarah_sprague

Follow

Despite getting sample ballot, double checking my status, wasn't on the voter roll. Upset doesn't even begin...

3:05 PM - 7 Jun 2016

400 340

Writer Allison Bloom, 41, took her kids with her when she went to vote at the Kahal Joseph Congregation synagogue in Westwood on Tuesday morning.

"I wanted to show them what voting means," Bloom said. But when she arrived, she said workers couldn't boot up the vote-counting machine. Bloom left behind her ballot, with a worker promising it would be counted.

Bloom said her kids asked, "Is this what it's always like?"

"It was just chaos," Bloom said. "It was kind of an unfortunate first experience at the polls for them."

matt.pearce@latimes.com

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ALSO

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